Submission of Claire O Hara, 31 Skreeny Manor, Manorhamilton, Leitrim, F91R6V6.

Re: Planning Application for 110kV substation and 110kV grid connection route to facilitate Lissinagroagh Wind Farm

Applicant: FuturEnergy Ireland Lissinagroagh DAC

Case Reference: PAX12.324597/ ACP – 324597-26

Location: The 110Kv Substation is situated in the townland of Faughary, Co. Leitrim and the Grid Connection Route spans Curraghfore, Skreeny, Faughary, Amorset, Clooneen, Milltown, Cornastauk, Srabick, Cloonaquin, Carrigeencor, Boihy, Aghameelta, Kilcoosy, Corrudda, Cleen, Tully, Killeen, Killanummery, Cleighran, Fawn, Drumahaire, Drumlease and Carrowcrin, Co. Leitrim and Lavally, Drumee and Ballysumaghan, Co. Sligo.

Date of Observation Submission: 16/10/2026

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make a submission to the proposed Lissanagroagh grid connection and 110Kv substation.

I have previously submitted an observation in respect of PAX.12.324290., Lissinagroagh Wind Farm Development. The applicant FuturEnergy states that this application and the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm developments are "functionally interdependent".

Having reviewed this application, I will outline my concerns below regarding this proposal.

I am deeply concerned about this application. It is related to the Lissanagroagh Windfarm Project which was submitted to An Coimisiun Pleanála by FuturEnergy in May 2026. This project would see the construction of a 110Kv substation along with a grid connection of approximately 32 kilometres of which the majority will run alongside public roads across County Leitrim and Co. Sligo to the ESBN substation at Srananagh, Co Sligo. This project would service the proposed Lissanagroagh Windfarm which would see the erection of fourteen wind turbines standing at a height of approximately 180 metres at Dough Mountain, Manorhamilton.

As a local resident, in Manorhamilton, I have a vested interest in the protection of our local environment, water resources, biodiversity of the area and the sustainable development of the surrounding landscape.

O Grianna v An Bord Pleanála (2014) IEHC 632.

With reference to the abovementioned Irish High Court planning and environmental law case, the court ruled that a wind farm and its associated grid connection to the national electricity network form a single, integrated project and that neither is independent of the other. The court ruled that developers cannot apply for planning permission or carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment for wind turbines while leaving the grid connection to be assessed or permitted separately at a later time. In this case it was ruled that An Bord Pleanála failed to look at the cumulative environmental impacts of both the turbines and the grid connection together and therefore the planning permission was legally invalid and therefore, stopped.

On what basis is FuturEnergy permitted to submit separate planning applications for the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm and then for the 110KV substation, grid connection and ancillary works? Given the apparent functional interdependence of these developments, does the submission of separate applications not raise serious concerns regarding potential project splitting? I am concerned that FuturEnergy's decision to submit two separate planning applications – one for Lissinagroagh Wind Farm and the other for the grid connection and 110KV sub station and ancillary works has made it more difficult for members of the public to understand the full scope and overall implications of the proposed development. By presenting the constituent elements of what is an interdependent project in separate applications, submitted at different times and across different sets of documentation, the cumulative nature and overall impact of the development may not be readily apparent to the public. Furthermore, this approach has placed an additional burden on members of the public who wish to participate in the planning process, requiring them to review separate applications, navigate different submission deadlines and pay sperate fees to lodge their observations. I am concerned that this fragmentation has impeded meaningful public participation and has prevented the public from fully understanding and commenting on the development as a whole. It therefore raises a legitimate question as to whether the separate applications adequately reflect the functional interdependence of the wind farm and its associated infrastructure and whether the project should instead have been assessed as a single, integrated development with one application before An Coimisin Pleanála.

I contend that this application for the grid connection cannot be approved on its own merits without due consideration the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm application. If planning permission were to be refused for Lissinagroagh wind farm, if both "are functionally interdependent," then would the justification for this proposed development cease to exist? The sole function of the proposed 110Kv substation and grid connection has no other function than to export power from Lissinagroagh Wind farm. The refusal of permission for the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm would seemingly undermine the rationale

for the proposed 110Kv substation and grid connection, whose sole purpose is to facilitate the export of electricity generated by Lissinagroagh Wind farm.

Construction and Disruption to local communities

Work is estimated to take an estimated thirty months with full road closures where a stop/go is not possible. The cable works is to take place along the L61801, R282, L2136, L21361, N16, L2169, L4166, L1465, L289, L8269, L82561, L4263, L4262 and L42621. The planning statement describes the effects on local communities as "generally short-term and localised." It does not identify which roads will be closed where stop/go is not possible. Many of these roads are quite narrow and a stop/go system may not be possible. Complete road closures could force traffic onto surrounding local roads, increasing travel times, creating bottlenecks, increase in road traffic collisions and adding to wear and tear of smaller secondary roads. Detours can add kilometres and delays to one's journey. There will be disruptions to public transport, with bus routes being detoured, delays, missed stops and confusion to daily commuters. One of the routes R280/Castle Street, Manorhamilton is a busy road whereby traffic enters the town from Donegal and North Leitrim. It is also a residential area which stands to be severely inconvenienced by road works. Gaelscoil Cluainin is also situated on Castle Street, Manorhamilton as is a children's play area. There is a safety risk where heavy machinery operates near homes, schools, play parks etc

Do water and wastewater services along the 32km grid connection stand to be disrupted? Many households in these areas depend on group water schemes and water mains for same are laid along public roads. The greatest risk to watermains could be accidental strikes where excavation accidentally punctures water mains causing localised flooding, water pressure drops.

Disruption to Natural Habitats

As a local I am remarkably familiar with Dough Mountain and the surrounding areas. It is beautiful and unspoilt. It is teeming with biodiversity, there are plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms which make up a complex and interconnected ecosystem specific to Dough Mountain. I am aware of two breeding pairs of Hen Harriers, one of Ireland's rarest and threatened birds of prey, living and foraging on the mountain. The mountain provides the exact terrain these raptors require to nest and hunt. A white tailed eagle has been commonly spotted foraging in the area. Sand Martins make their long journey from Africa every summer to live on Dough Mountain to breed. Red Data Book species that are found within the site of Dough Mountain include the Irish Hare, common frog and Red Grouse.

There are several species of bat residing in its karst caves and fissures. Bats are a protected species under Irish and EU Legislation, Buzzards can also be seen flying around the mountain. I am also aware that the Marsh Fritillary, Ireland's only legally protected insect and which is listed as vulnerable in Europe has been observed on Dough Mountain. Dough Mountain is largely an unspoilt landscape. I am concerned that the construction of a 110Kv substation and accompanying ancillary works in that area poses a serious threat of environmental damage to protected peat lands on Dough Mountain and the potential destruction of animal and plant life, an entire ecosystem on Dough Mountain.

The Hen Harrier, a species that has been recorded in the local area could face serious disruption to its habitat. This bird is already under threat, and its local presence should be protected.

Other Wind Farm Developments

Building a new grid connection can encourage and accelerate further wind farm development in the area. The lack of grid infrastructure is one of the biggest hurdles for wind farm development. When grid infrastructure is introduced or upgraded in an area it can trigger a cluster effect that makes further wind farm projects more viable. Once an initial wind farm pays the huge cost of building a substation and connecting to the main transmission grid it establishes a hub. Other developers can then apply to connect to that same substation or utilise the existing cable route. This will drastically lower the costs for future wind farm developments in the area. Is this what the local area can look forward to in the future? Building a grid connection will almost certainly attract more turbines to the area. Future developers will see this as an opportunity as it will be far cheaper and easier for a developer to propose a wind farm development and tap into the newly established grid connection and substation.

Issues with Substation

I am concerned about the construction of a 110kV substation. There are accompanying health concerns, safety concerns, visual impact and its effect on property values. With regards to health concerns there is the anxiety of electromagnetic fields.

A substation is a large industrial structure made of concrete, transformers, and overhead wiring. The construction of a substation in the area will spoil the local landscape and destroy the natural beauty of the area.

A substation can also make local properties less desirable. A combination of the visual eyesore, the accompanying noise and health fears could lead to a drop in surrounding property values making homes harder to sell.

The transformers and cooling fans in a substation produce continuous noise in the form of constant low frequency humming or buzzing. This noise could prove noticeable and disruptive to those living in its vicinity particularly at night.

There are also safety concerns with risk of fire or explosion. Transformers contain insulating oil and there is the concern of leaks contaminating local ground soil and groundwater.

Engagement with the Local Community

I would also like to raise my concern regarding the manner in which Futurenergy engaged with the local community during its pre application consultation process. The company held two consultation clinics on midweek dates and during standard working hours, when many people were unable to attend due to work or other commitments. Furthermore, notification of these clinics were by way of fliers that were only distributed to residences within 2km of the proposed development days before the actual clinics were to be held. Given the scale of Lissinagroagh Wind Farm Development, its impacts will extend well beyond a 2 km radius and will affect many neighbouring communities who were not notified. I, like many others, was unable to attend because I was at work on those days. The consultation clinics were held in a community centre in Rossinver, a rural location with limited accessibility and no public transport for those who do not drive. This made attendance more difficult for many people living in the surrounding towns and communities. Family members who were able to attend informed me that the consultations were conducted on an individual, appointment-based basis rather than in an open public forum where members of the community could hear the same information, ask questions collectively and benefit from a transparent exchange of views. While one to one meetings have their place, they do not provide the same level of openness or opportunity for public discussion as a conventional public meeting. For these reasons, I do not believe the consultation process provided a fair or meaningful opportunity for all those likely to be affected by this development to participate. In my view, the level of community engagement undertaken did not reflect the scale of this development or the breadth of the communities that stand to be affected. I am concerned that those people who stand to be affected by the proposed construction of the 110Kv substation and the grid connection of 32Km have not sufficiently been made aware of this particular application and therefore have not been afforded an opportunity to play a role or have their say in this development.

Conclusion

I therefore object to the proposed development. I respectfully request that planning permission for this proposal be refused.

Yours Sincerely.

Claire O Hara